

To John Bruce

16 Oct 39

My dear Sir

I am much obliged by your note informing me of Mr Halliwell's project.

That project is a good one, though, I own, it interferes with a scheme of mine, to a certain extent.

No Wright knows that months ago I mentioned to him my desire to edit a series of Miracle Plays. I did not mean to take the MS called the Lude of Coventry, or any other entire, but

to treat the subject as a science,
so as to shew in a single volume
the origin progress and perfection
(as far as the term may be deserved)
of that species of dramatic composition
called a Miracle Play. I would
begin with the earliest & simplest,
and so gradually come down to the
latest & most complicated, until
I shewed how, & at what period
this kind of dramatic representa-
tion merged itself & was lost in
another species.

So far of Miracle Plays.
Then another part of my project
was, in a subsequent year to
propose to the Council of the Cander
Society to follow up the first vol.
by a second, treating ^{or Moral Plays} Moralities, in

the same manner as I had
treated Miracle Plays, and thus
establishing & pointing out from
first to last the advance of our na-
tional drama, until it became
what it was in the hands of
our poets of the reign of Elizabeth.

I know that no book-
seller would back me in such
an undertaking - yet it would be
highly important in the history of
our literature; & it is part of the
business duty of the Canadian So-
ciety to print works in themselves
valuable, but which would not
answer the purpose of a publisher
as a pecuniary speculation.

Mr Halliwell's proposal
is a good one, but I am bound to

say that I think mine a better.
I doubt too Mr Halliwell's know-
ledge of the matter at present,
though his zeal & industry seem
to be such that he would very likely
soon outstrip me.

I did not like to propose
anything on the subject to the
Council - first because I had a
work in hand for the Society, & next
because Mr Todd of Dublin has
a Miracle Play in prospect & I feared
our subscribers might think we
meant to be too dramatic. Again
thank you, I am

My dear Sir

Your very sincerely

24 Brompton Sq.
Oct. 16th 1839.

J. Pagefolliet